Prevention of Deteriorations of Forests in Coastal Andhra Pradesh

1597. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minsiter of ENEVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received suggestions to strengthen the office of regional CCF in the south far better supervision and advise of Government to prevent rapid deterioration of forest in coastal Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this matter; and

(c) whether any plan has been drawn up in consultation with Government of Andhra Pradesh to reduce depletion of forests in Eastern Ghats in coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A suggestion to appoint a Range Officer as Consultant in Regional Office (SZ), Bengalore, after his retirement has been received. This is not possible under rules.

(c) Yes, Sir.

WHO'S Suggestion on Pollution

1598. SHRI MANTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any suggestion from WHO on how to protect our citizens from ever-increasing pollution.

(b) what are the details of the suggestions from WHO on this subject; and

(c) whether any of these suggestions been implemented by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Hazardous Effects of Benzindine Dyes

1599. SHRI MANTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted about the hazardous nature of benzindine based Dyes;

(b) whether it is a fact that a large number of people working with this dyes have developed cancer; and

(c) what action Government have initiated to give relief to the contaminated people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) As per the published records, there were 10,382 cases of-cancer of all types in Greater Bombay during the period 1967-69. Out of this, nearly 100 cases are reported to have been caused due to exposure of workers working in the dye factories around Bombay. Another study conducted by the National Institute of Occupational' Health, Ahmedabad on 18 workers working in a dye-stuff manufacturing unit revealed that some of these workers excreted very high levels of benzindine in their urine which is a potential cause for bladder cancer in the workers.

(c) The Government has taken the following steps to deal with the hazards of benzidine-based dyes:

(i) Because of carcinogenic nature of benzindine-based dyes, the Government of India have already banned their manufacture with effect from 30.1.1993 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(ii) The Government of Maharashtra had also banned the manufacture of such dyes in 1985 under the Maharashtra Factories Act.

(iii) The compensation to the workers suffering from various occupational diseases is regulated under the Workmen's Compensation Act by the labour departments of States. Occupational cancer is a notifiable disease for which workers are entitled to get compensation.

वन क्षेत्रों में खनन पट्टे का नवीकरण

1600. **श्री शिवचरण सिंह:** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) देश भर में वन क्षेत्रों में खनन पट्टे का नवीकरण किये जाने के बारे में कितने मामले इस समय सरकार के विचाराधीन हैं;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि राजस्थान के वन क्षेत्रों में खनन पट्टे के नवीकरण से संबंधित बहुत सारे मामले सरकार के विचाराधीन हैं और उनकी कुल संख्या कितनी है और उसमें विलम्ब के क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि पट्टे का नवीकरण या समय में छूट दिये जाने का मामला वन संरक्षण अधिनियम के अंतर्गत आता है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो छूट प्रदान किये जाने के क्या कारण हैं और यदि नहीं, तो कानूनों का उल्लंघन करने के जिम्मेदार व्यक्तियों के नाम क्या हैं;

(ङ) क्या यह सच है कि वन संरक्षण अधिनियम का उल्लंघन किये जाने के बारे में कुछ शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं; और

(च) क्या यह सच है कि राजस्थान सरकार ने अवैध खनन की अनुमति दी है, यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्यमंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ): (क) 30.11.1993 को केन्द्र सरकार के पास वन (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1980 के तहत खनन पट्टों से संबंधित 30 प्रस्ताव लम्बित थे।

(ख) 30.11.1993 को अलवर जिले के सरिस्का बाघ रिजर्व में संगमरमर की 208 खानों के लिए 502.77 है० वन भूमि को उपयोग में लाने के बारे में केवल एक प्रस्ताव वन (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1980 के तहत केन्द्र सरकार के पास लम्बित है।

(ग) जी, हां।

(घ) वन (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1980 के तहत पूर्व स्वीकृति प्राप्त किए बिना वन क्षेत्र में खनन पट्टों के नवीनीकरण के लिए कोई छूट नहीं दी गई है। अधिनियम का उल्लंघन करने के लिए उत्तरदायी व्यक्तियों के नामों के बारे में सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सदन के पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

(ङ) जी, हां।

(च) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सदन के पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Eco-System in Western Ghats

1601. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the extent of damage and threat of extinction facing the eco-system of Western Ghats;

(b) whether Government have received any threat to this effect; and

(c) what steps have been/are proposed to be taken to replenish the greenery of Western Ghats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The Government is fully aware of the serious problems of degradation of the eco-system in the Western Ghats. Though quantitative estimation *of* natural resource degradation is not possible at this time, it is accepted that heavy anthropogenic pressure and exploitative patterns of development in the past have led to depletion of capital stock of natural resources on which all economic development must ultimately depend. The major problems include depletion of forests, destruction of habitat of unique plant and animal species, shortage of fuel and fodder for the rural areas, soil erosion, and loss of soil fertility, floods etc.

(c) In order to arrest the damage to the Western Ghats eco-system, the Government initiated a separate Western Ghat Development Programme (WGDP) in 1974-75 as part of Hill Area Development Programme. The WGDP is funded by Special Central Assistance made available to the concerned State